

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2002

NEW HEAD START FACILITY AWARDED \$600,000 GRANT

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that Ulster County Community Action Committee has been awarded a grant of \$600,000 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will go toward the construction of a new Head Start/Early Childhood Facility at the Kingston Housing Authority Affordable Housing Complex.

"The availability of adequate early childhood care is a key factor in allowing parents to earn a decent living," said Hinchey. "This new facility will allow many more people in Ulster County to go to work knowing that their young children are in a safe and nurturing environment."

The new facility, which is being developed in partnership with the Kingston Housing Authority and the City of Kingston, will be located in the complex that includes Colonial Gardens, Colonial Addition and Stuyvesant Charter Apartments. When completed it will enable Ulster County Community Action to provide comprehensive Head Start/childcare services to 138 children ages infant through pre-school. Ulster County currently has five Head Start Centers and a Home Based Program.

In September 2001, Hinchey announced another HHS grant for the project in the amount of \$542,169. The total federal commitment to the facility is now \$1,283,062.

"The lack of sufficient early childhood daycare facilities has been a critical issue in Ulster County," said Larry Kithcart, executive director of Ulster County Community Action Committee. "We are greatly appreciative of the efforts put forth by Congressman Hinchey to secure this grant."

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs, which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families.